

The community-at-large has also benefitted from Monsignor Alliegro's dedicated service. Since 1990, he has served as chaplain to the men and women of the East Brunswick Police Department. He also lives by the command to "serve the least of my brothers and sisters" through his support of the Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry. The countless hours which Monsignor Alliegro dedicates to those in need of clothes, food, emotional and physical support is an example which all of us should model.

Monsignor Alliegro's humble work on behalf of the people of New Jersey earned him the title "Monsignor," which was bestowed on him by Pope John Paul II in 1993. Today, he continues to serve the diocese's spiritual life as pastor of Saint Bartholomew Parish in East Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa asked all of us "to quench the thirst of Jesus by lives of real charity." Monsignor Alliegro has done this throughout his life. I wish him many more years of selfless charity to all of God's people.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Chairman, I commend Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Minority Member MOLLOHAN, the entire subcommittee staff, both Republican and Democrat, and the rest of my colleagues on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary for crafting an equitable bill that addresses many of the problems facing coastal areas like Long Island.

Brown Tide is a micro-algae bloom that was first reported in the bays of Long Island in June of 1985, devastating Long Island's million dollar scallop industry and reducing a harvest of 278,532 pounds in 1984 to just 250 pounds by 1988. Virtually every coastal state has reported some type of harmful algal bloom. In this bill we have given \$19 million dollars to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Ocean Program (COP), \$1.2 million above the President's request and \$1.8 million above Fiscal Year 1998.

NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program, in collaboration with the New York Sea Grant Program operating out of Stony Brook University, has implemented efforts to improve management strategies for effectively reducing harmful algae blooms like Brown Tide. These efforts are a crucial first step towards developing a comprehensive, multi-agency, national capability for understanding and controlling algae blooms in our national coastal waters.

I am particularly pleased that the Committee directed NOAA to give maximum priority to

continuing the focus they have given over the last three years to the Brown Tide problem in the Peconic, Moriches and adjacent Long Island bays and inland waterways—a program that has come to be known as the "Brown Tide Research Initiative" (BTRI). NOAA's focus on the Brown Tide problem has resulted in \$1.5 million over the last three years being devoted to the BTRI and I will work closely with NOAA to see that this funding priority continues to be addressed in this manner, as the committee has directed in this legislation.

Also included in this legislation is an additional \$450,000 to conduct a study utilizing the expertise of Long Island's university research programs, like those already in place at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, to initiate separate research on the impact environmental problems like Brown Tide have on the development of hard clam species in the South Shore Estuary Reserve on Long Island. I am pleased that the Committee has increased the "Resource Information" account in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) budget to allow NMFS to provide support for work on the South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER).

The hard clam has been an economic and ecological cornerstone of the South Shore Estuary area, but harvests have dropped precipitously since the 1970's. While it has long been recognized that this decline may be attributable to a number of factors, some evidence suggests that the situation may be further changing. A key aquaculture company in New York, Bluepoints, just announced that it will be discontinuing its hard clam production due to a great decrease in growth rates. Other reports indicate that natural clam recruitment (settlement, growth, and survival) is at an unprecedented low level.

Clam-related studies funded by New York Sea Grant Program in the early 1980's gave the industry and managers much-needed knowledge, but conditions are evolving and a critical reexamination and new investigations are essential at this time. The SSER Technical Advisory Committee has identified the study, "Hard Clam Population Dynamics," as its highest priority. I thank the Committee for providing these funds needed to preserve an important estuary and an industry on Long Island.

Billions of dollars in economic growth, thousands of jobs and countless recreational opportunities are being wasted as a result of over-fishing our commercial and recreational fisheries. I support the priorities set within the nearly \$3.4 million of funding the Committee has provided for NMFS. The Committee has increased the "Resource Information" account in the NMFS budget \$200,000 over last year's level, providing funds for Southampton College of Long Island University to establish a Cooperative Education Marine Research (CEMR) program with NMFS. I will work closely with Southampton College and NMFS to ensure an education and research program is developed at Southampton College that will address problems with the bluefish and striped bass fisheries off Long Island.

Also, I fully support the Committee's decision to examine the problem of unavailable and sometimes incomplete scientific information that make management decisions difficult, to say the least. It is unfair to ask those who fish for lobster and scallops to spend thousands of dollars on new equipment to reduce

fish by-catch and whale entanglements without clear evidence that these efforts will be effective, and we have begun to address this problem by funding new scientific, comprehensive studies of changes in fish stocks, particularly to determine whether stocks have declined or merely moved offshore—an issue of extreme importance also to the Bluefin Tuna fishermen of Long Island.

There are still some serious issues that need to be addressed, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service's often controversial, and I would say faulty, quota allocations among elements of our fishing industries. Long Island's Bluefin Tuna fishery has closed prematurely during the past three years, creating severe economic hardship for many Long Island fishermen, due to these faulty quotas. Also included is a provision to address the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) repeated closures of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fishery and its impact on Long Island's fishing industry.

Relying on those inaccurate figures, NMFS has tried to maintain its quotas in each of the past three years by closing the fishery just as the Bluefin Tuna moves into New York's ocean waters in late summer. NMFS's management of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna has been an embarrassment and their repeated closures of this fishery have wreaked havoc with Long Island's multi-million dollar recreational and commercial fishing industries. In this bill the Secretary of Commerce is directed to report to the Committee on the Department's efforts to fully resolve this problem caused by NMFS's reliance on faulty reporting practices that produce inaccurate estimates on the number of Bluefin Tuna caught.

Managing our coastal resources must go beyond managing fish stocks. We must also focus on habitat restoration and clean-up. Since 1985, Long Island Sound has been recognized as an ecologically diverse and threatened estuary by Congress. It was one of the first estuaries included in the National Estuary Program. The federal government has spent about \$1.725 billion on environmental clean-up and assessment of pollution in Long Island Sound. We have provided \$63.5 million in this bill for NOAA's Coastal Zone Management program to preserve, protect and, where possible, restore and enhance our coastal resources, like Long Island Sound.

Yet despite these tremendous efforts, the U.S. Navy was allowed to dump over 1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment into Long Island Sound. I have crafted the "Long Island Sound Preservation Act" (H.R. 55), to put an end to this practice that compromises the billions of dollars spent on environmental restoration of Long Island Sound. It runs counter to public opinion that we should protect and conserve our oceans, coasts and beaches and counter to the intent of Congress to develop and implement comprehensive environmental protections.

Finally, it is unfortunate that I must mention my concerns about whether the terms of the U.S.-Japan Insurance Agreement of 1994 and 1996 are being violated by one Japanese company involved in selling insurance products in Japan's third sector insurance market. In a recent meeting, the US Trade Representative committed to several Members of Congress that she would hold an open, fair and complete interagency review of this matter. I understand that government officials outside of

the USTR are calling for a full 30-day investigation of facts raised in that meeting. I urge the USTR to heed the advice of other agency officials calling for a full investigation.

As Appropriators and as Representatives in the people's House, we face enormous pressure to cut the federal budget. Republicans and Democrats have to give a little to get our deficit under control and balance our budget. This bill does not fulfill all of Long Island's coastal and environmental needs, but it is a good bill and I hope that as we go to Conference my colleagues will keep these priorities in mind.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Task Force Act of 1998. This legislation will establish a Task Force that will look into all of the health care promises and representations made to members of the Uniformed Services by Department of Defense personnel and Department literature. The Task Force will submit a comprehensive report to Congress which will contain a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions. This report will include legislative remedies to correct the great injustices that have occurred to those men and women who served their country in good faith.

Let us not forget why we are blessed with freedom and democracy in this country. The sacrifices made by those who served in the military are something that must never be overlooked. Promises were made to those who served in the Uniformed Services. They were told that their health care would be taken care of for life if they served a minimum of twenty years of active federal service.

Well, those military retirees served their time and expected the government to hold up its end of the bargain. They are now realizing that these were nothing more than empty promises.

Those who served in the military did not let their country down in its time of need and we should not let military retirees down in theirs. It's time military retirees get what was promised to them and that's why I am introducing this legislation.

PRAYER FOR ROBERT JOHNSON

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives a most unfortunate accident that occurred two weeks ago and severely injured a young man in my Connecticut congressional district. Robert Johnson, a bright, energetic and very talented young man from Oxford, Connecticut was thrown from a pick-up truck as it struck

an abandoned car that was left on the road in the darkness of night. Head injuries led to a coma that continues today.

We are all too familiar with accidents such as this that inflict injury upon the innocent, and the tremendous upheaval that results in the lives of not only those injured, but of course the families and friends of those injured, as well. We pray for the speedy recovery of Robert Johnson and that the strain of this accident be lifted from his family and friends.

As terrible as this situation is, it has also come to underscore the importance of the Family and Medical Leave Act, passed by the 103rd Congress and signed into law by President Clinton. Because of this law, Robert Johnson's immediate family are free to take unpaid leave from their jobs in order to comfort their son without the threat of losing their employment. We pass laws here with the hope they will work as we intend. The Johnson tragedy has brought home just how important the Family and Medical Leave Act is for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that every concerned individual keep Robert Johnson in their prayers.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI- CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I am inserting into the RECORD letters of support for the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276, an amendment to deny funds for federal preemption of state and local laws on the grounds that they are inconsistent with international trade and investment agreements. These letters reflect the widely held conviction in meaningful, democratic government and the laws it can produce.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS,
STEPHEN WISE CONGRESS HOUSE,
New York, NY, July 27, 1998.

Hon. DENNIS J. KUCINICH,
United States House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: On behalf of the American Jewish Congress, I am writing to express our strong support for the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill, which would protect the rights of various cities to sanction Swiss banks that continue to delay settlement of claims by Holocaust survivors.

The actions of the Swiss banks and government in dealing with Holocaust assets have been unconscionable, and if local authorities want to respond in ways they deem appropriate, they should be given the opportunity to do so. If the World Trade Organization were to rule against such sanctions by American cities, the fact that the United States

government would be obligated to litigate against the cities invoking the sanctions merely adds insult to injury.

Under the United States Constitution, states and cities have rights that cannot be abridged by the federal government, and this includes the right to punish Swiss banks as long as those banks remain recalcitrant in making appropriate restitution. Your amendment denying taxpayer funds for litigation against American cities is clearly necessary to protect the rights of cities to impose such sanctions.

Thank you for your leadership in proposing this amendment.

Sincerely,

PHIL BAUM,
Executive Director.

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY,

Lincoln, MA, July 21, 1998.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE KUCINICH: The Alliance for Democracy voices its strong support for the Kucinich, Sanders, DeFazio, Stearns, Ros-Lehtinen amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill which prevents U.S. government agencies from taking legal action against states or communities found by the WTO to be in non-compliance with international trade and investment agreements.

We support this amendment because it helps to preserve the right of communities and states to take a stand in support of democracy and human rights. We do not believe taxpayers dollars should be used to emasculate our democracy at the local or state level or to prevent citizens from taking a stand in support of democracy abroad.

Sincerely,

RUTH CAPLAN.

THE AMERICAN CAUSE.

Re: Kucinich-Sanders-Ros Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to HR 4276
To: Members of Congress

From: Pat Buchanan and Bay Buchanan
We strongly support Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276.

The amendment provides critical protection for state and local sovereignty from decisions made by the World Trade Organization. Dozens of categories of law passed or being considered by the legislatures of every state and many cities in the nation are vulnerable to being deemed "WTO-illegal." Those laws include "buy local" requirements in state procurement, and health and safety inspections of imported foods. State and local legislatures are permitted by the Constitution to make policy on these matters. Why should we allow the WTO to trump them?

Passing the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276 will protect state and local sovereignty. We hope that you will support it.

August 3, 1998.

Dear Representative, American Lands representing grassroots environmental groups across the country urges you to support of the Kucinich-Sanders-Ros-Lehtinen-DeFazio-Stearns amendment to H.R. 4276, the Commerce, State and Justice Appropriations bill.

Kucinich-Sanders would bar the use of federal funds to challenge state and local laws on the grounds that the laws violate international trade and investment agreements such as NAFTA, GATT and the proposed Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

One of industry's interests in global trade agreements is to prevent governments at the national, state, and local levels from putting conditions on trade. But what the industry